

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1-20, and 22-25 have been amended. Claims 27-31 have been added. No claims have been canceled.

The Examiner rejected claims 5-20, 24, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. Applicant has amended claims 5-20, 24, and 25 so that they do not depend from any other multiple dependent claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 1.75(c) has been overcome by the amendments and the remarks. Applicant submits that claims 5-20, 24 and 25 as amended are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended claims 1-20 to remove narrow ranges that fall within the broad range. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 has been overcome by the amendments and the remarks. Applicant submits that claims 1-20 as amended are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner rejected claims 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Abbott (U.S. 6,638,466). Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of these rejections because the cited reference fails to disclose all of the limitations of the claims. Independent claim 21, as amended, recites:

A rotor blade element for the rotor of a wind power system, wherein the rotor blade element is connectable with at least one further rotor blade element to form a rotor blade,

wherein **the rotor blade element and the at least one further rotor blade element are arranged one behind the other in a longitudinal direction of the rotor blade**, and the rotor blade element has a recess at the end connectable with the further rotor blade element which is part of a space filled with adhesive in the connected state. (emphasis added)

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 21 requires that the rotor blade element and the further rotor blade element are arranged one behind the other in a longitudinal direction of the rotor blade. Abbott fails to disclose at least this limitation of the claim.

Abbott is directed to methods for manufacturing composite material structures having one or more separable or replaceable skin portions. (See Abbott, Abstract). The sections of Abbott cited by the Office action disclose a one-piece composite aircraft structure, such as a wing flap section, manufactured using a conventional single-cure RTM process. (See Abbott, Figures 2-4, col. 7, lines 48-50). Although Abbott does disclose that other types of composite structures other than aircraft structures can be fabricated, such as wind turbine blades, nothing in Abbott discloses that the fixed skin sections of the composite structure are arranged one behind the other in a longitudinal direction of the rotor blade. In fact, Abbott discloses that the fixed skin sections of the aircraft structure are arranged in the non-longitudinal direction of the aircraft structure and have a single, longitudinal separable skin section disposed in sealing relationship between the fixed skin sections. (See Abbott, Figures 2-4, col. 8, line 48 to col. 9, line 32). Accordingly, Abbott does not disclose that the rotor blade element and the further rotor blade elements are arranged one behind the other in a longitudinal direction of the rotor blade, as required by claim 21. Given that the cited reference fails to disclose all of the limitations of the claim, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 21 is patentable over the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Given that claims 22-23 depend from independent claim 21, which is patentable over the cited reference, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 22-23 are also patentable over the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 22-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) has been overcome by the amendments and the remarks. Applicant submits that claims 21-23 as amended are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner rejected claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gougeon et al (U.S. 4,474,536). Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of these rejections because the cited reference fails to disclose all of the limitations of the claims. Independent claim 26, as amended, recites:

A connecting element for connecting rotor blade elements for a rotor blade of a wind power system, comprising:
at least two fixing segments, and
locking segments surrounding said fixing segments,
wherein the connecting element has diminutions directed outwardly in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the rotor blade elements to be connected, and
wherein the diminutions are formed in such a way that the connecting element forms a hollow space with the rotor blade elements to be connected. (emphasis added)

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 26 requires that the connecting element has diminutions directed outwardly in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the rotor blade elements to be connected. Gougeon fails to disclose at least this limitation of the claim.

Gougeon is directed to hollow wind turbine blades that include abutting blade sections and a flush joint. (See Gougeon, Abstract). In the process of assembling the two blade sections, the end walls of each of the blades are first of all butt-joined in flush relationship to the end walls of the central section to form the butt joint (designated as J in Figure 1). (See Gougeon, col. 2, lines 30-40). At the assembly site, the abutting faces are clamped and adhesively secured together with the adhesive and, after curing of the adhesive, the grooves are cut in the two

sections. The pair of grooves forms diamond-shaped recesses for receiving load transmitting wood block splice inserts. (See Gougeon, col. 3, lines 22-32). The sides of these inserts should uniformly taper *top to bottom* between about 2 and 5 degrees. (See col. 3, lines 40-43)(emphasis added).

The Office action purports that the splice inserts have diminutions directed outwardly in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the rotor blade elements to be connected. (See Office action, mailed December 4, 2006, page 5). The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office action's characterization of the cited reference. In particular, the splice inserts have tapered vertical sides that taper *top to bottom*, as clearly shown in Figures 6-8. Splice inserts having tapered sides does not constitute a connecting element having diminutions directed outwardly in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the rotor blade elements to be connected because the sides *taper from the top to the bottom of the splice inserts*, and not directed outwardly in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the rotor blade elements. This tapering is directed *inwardly* toward the partition line of the adjoining sections along the length and the height of the rotor blade by the sides of the splice inserts diminishing from *top to bottom*. Accordingly, the splice inserts do not constitute the connecting element having diminutions directed outwardly in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the rotor blade elements to be connected, as required by the claim. Given that the cited reference fails to disclose all of the limitations of the claim, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 26 is patentable over the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) has been overcome by the amendments and the remarks. Applicant submits that claim 26 as amended is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the objections to the claims and the abstract have been overcome by the amendments and the remarks and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested. Applicants submit that Claims 1-26 as amended are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any fee deficiency that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 3/5/07

By: 
Michael J. Mallie
Reg. No. 36,591

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(408) 720-8300